GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1970
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems in all the States in the country;

(b) whether the Government has not notified all wetlands under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all the States have been asked to constitute State Wetlands Authorities as nodal agencies for integrated policy, planning and regulation of wetlands;

(d) if so, the names of the States who have not constituted State Wetland Authorities and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) whether the tenure of the Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA) - a nodal agency to coordinate with multiple stakeholders in the country for conservation and sustainable management of wetlands has expired and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems' (NPCA), financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for conservation of identified lakes and wetlands in the country, on cost sharing basis between the Central Government and respective State Governments. Various conservation activities taken-up under the scheme include interception, diversion and treatment of waste water, shore line protection, de-silting, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc. So far, an amount of Rs. 151.94 crores has been released to the States and other organizations for conservation and management of 82 identified wetlands in the country. Similarly, this Ministry has so far sanctioned projects for conservation of 63 lakes in 14 States at a total cost of Rs. 1096.09 crores. So far, an amount of Rs. 687.588 crores has been released for the sanctioned projects and work on 34 lakes has been completed.

(b)So far, 25 wetlands, designated as Ramsar sites, have been notified under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010. Notification of more wetlands could not be taken-up due to non-submission of proper 'Brief Documents'/ requisite details by the concerned State Governments as per the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010.

(c) & (d) In order to conserve lakes and wetlands in an integrated manner, all the States have been advised for giving high priority for constitution of State Wetland/ Lake Authorities, identification and notification of priority wetlands, development of integrated management plans, securing resources for implementation of management plans, monitoring and evaluation, strengthening research-management interface, etc.

A few State Governments namely, Odisha, Karnataka, Bihar, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Punjab have already constituted State Wetland/Lake Authorities. Specific lake authorities like Chilika Development Authority, Loktak Development Authority, Wullar Conservation and Management Authority and East Kolkata Wetland Management Authority have also been set up. Remaining States have not yet constituted their State Wetland Authority.

(e) The Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority under the provisions of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 has recently been reconstituted for a period of three years i.e. up to 13th February, 2020 vide notification dated 14.02.2017.

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